

ing maiden who seek assistance in the determination of their fate, from this mixed assortment of knowledge, are not likely to reach a determination that will necessarily be helpful to the race. Nevertheless this little book contains a large amount of interesting and useful information which is not always as well known by even the medical profession as it should be.

H. D'A. P.

"Diseases of the Digestive Canal." By Paul Cohnheim. From the second German edition. Edited and translated by Dudley Fulton. Third edition. Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London. 1914. Price, \$4.00.

This is an excellent book; it is clearly written and concise. No one knows better than Dr. Fulton that the theories of disordered digestion are undergoing a rapid revision and that the apparently settled problems of yesterday are still in the process of change, but what is stable and firmly established, is well described in this book.

Much helpful advice is given in history taking, and in preliminary remarks on diagnosis. For the sake of hitting an antiquated fallacy, let me quote the following:

"Significance of coating on the tongue: Most patients that suffer from chronic dyspepsia attach a great deal of importance to the appearance of their tongue. Many physicians also think they are able to form a conclusion as to the condition of the stomach from the thickness of the coating on the tongue. This is an error. A coated tongue and affections of the stomach are only indirectly related. The tongue is always coated if the patient does not chew his food, or if he masticates hurriedly; the reason for this being that mastication mechanically cleanses the tongue. For this reason the tongue is always heavily coated if there is no appetite, as in the case of acute diseases, while in chronic diseases, when the patient is masticating solids several times a day, the tongue will show scarcely any coating, though he may be suffering from either a functional or an organic disease of the stomach."*

For this and similar good counsel, the book is hereby heartily recommended to doctors in general.

S. T. P.

* Mueller and Fuchs were the first to make the observation that 62 per cent. of the healthy persons that they examined had coated tongues; and that caries of the teeth, stomatitis or catarrhal pharyngitis, etc., existed in 66 per cent. of young persons whose tongues were coated.

"Dental Electro-therapeutics." By Ernest Sturridge, L. D. S., Eng., D. D. S., Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Member of the British Dental Association, London, Eng. 12mo. 318 pages, with 154 engravings. Cloth, \$2.75 net. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York. 1914.

The publication of this little volume is very timely as there is a rapidly growing demand in the dental profession for more precise knowledge upon the subject of electro-therapeutics in dental surgery.

The author recognizes the fact that the average dentist has but little knowledge of the principles which underlie the successful employment of electricity as a therapeutic agent, he has therefore endeavored to place before the profession in a concise and reliable form the fundamental principles with which the dentist must be familiar in order to employ with intelligence and benefit to his patient this (at present) little used but very valuable therapeutic agent.

The principal object of the book as stated by the author in his preface "is especially intended to bring forward the value of ionic medication in the treatment of periodontal diseases and everything pertaining to ions and their uses in dental treatment has been carefully detailed, etc., etc."

The book is divided into two sections or parts.

The first deals with electro-physics as it pertains to electro-medicine, physiology and its therapeutics as applied to dentistry and the various kinds of apparatus and appliances necessary for its proper exhibition and application. The second part deals with electro-therapeutics in the treatment of various dental diseases and abnormal oral conditions, particularly with the periodontal membrane, pyorrhea alveolaris, dental-alveolar abscess, devitalized teeth, pulpless teeth, and septic conditions of the mouth and gums.

The teaching along these lines is sound and conservative and will appeal to those dentists who are familiar with the therapeutic benefits to be derived from an intelligent use of the various electric currents in the treatment of these diseased conditions of the oral cavity.

We have, however, looked in vain for some mention of the great benefit to be derived from the application of the continued current in the treatment of hyperaemia and congestion of the dental pulp and in relieving odontalgia due to irritations not septic in their nature. This is an omission to be regretted and it is hoped that in a second edition of the book this phase of the subject may receive the attention which its demonstrated value merits.

With this exception the book is heartily commendable and it should find a place in the working library of every progressive dentist. The press work and the illustrations are fully up to the usual high standard of the publishers.

J. G. M.

"Stammering and Cognate Defects of Speech." By C. S. Bluemel, Boulder Creek, Colorado. Published by G. E. Stechert & Co., New York. 1913. Two volumes.

It is so many years since anything has appeared in English of so pretentious a nature as the present work, of 600 pages on the subject of stammering, that the reviewer acknowledges to a distinct sense of disappointment, that after several weeks of hard study, he was unable to extract anything of value out of the redundant verbosity of this poorly digested rehash of everything published on the subject—scientific or otherwise,—since the time of Schultess in the early part of the nineteenth century.

The first volume is taken up entirely with a very elementary and incomplete review of the principles of psychology, for which the reader could very much better be referred to any of the standard text books on the subject. Buried in the midst of these text-book principles, the author has concealed what is evidently the prime motive for his monumental work. As he explains it, "The theory has been developed in large part as the result of introspective evidence,—evidence as indispensable as it was uncovered," whatever this last phrase may mean.

On page 187, vol. 1, the following paragraph occurs: "Now, since the stammer's difficulty is to produce the vowel, and is not to produce voice per se, it is evident that his difficulty must be to produce the vowel-color or vowel-quality. The stammerer's difficulty is transient auditory amnesia: he is unable to recall the sound image of the vowel that he wishes to enunciate. This, then, is the thesis of the present monograph."

As a matter of fact, some very able men, amongst whom is Gutzmann, are not at all certain that the difficulty is in producing the vowel; but allowing the author to retain for the purpose of supporting his theory this disputed fact—the key-stone of this whole argument,—the reviewer looks in vain, in the subsequent pages, for any information which would tend to show how one could make a practical application of this discovery that the stammerer is an "audito-motuer."

The second volume reminds one of an enlarged number of "Public Opinion." Mosaiced together in a most ingenious fashion, are extracts from